

contemporary situations. The event culminates with the Top Ten teams conducting their mock hearings right here on Capitol Hill in either a Senate or House hearing room.

I am proud to say that Indiana teams have made the Top Ten almost every year the competition has been held; and this year will mark Hamilton Southeastern High School's second trip to the Top Ten. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding Hoosiers of Hamilton Southeastern High School, students and staff, for their hard work and dedication to academic excellence. And I ask my colleagues to join with me to congratulate the Hamilton Southeastern High School Team—Teacher Jill Baisinger, and students, Kellie Devore-Gogola; Adam Gauthier; Alex Gillham; Caitlin Graovac; John Holt; Alana Kane; Matthew Knafel; Jaclyn Lauer; Matthew Lymbcropoulos; Mark Mace; Samuel Morgan; Eric Ogle; Jonathan Sorg; Julia Strzeskowski; and Mitchell West—for their outstanding performance at the 2009 “We the People” contest. I look forward to next year's competition when I'm sure that Hamilton Southeastern High School will not only be back in the Top Ten but win it all.

HONORING NANCY OLMSTEAD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nancy Olmstead for her dedication to her family and community. Mrs. Olmstead passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at her home in Madera, California after a long battle with cancer.

Nancy Olmstead was born in Des Moines, Iowa to Cecil and Ethel Olson. She worked for Sears for a number of years. In 1970 she went into the insurance business. During her twenty-five-year career in the insurance business, she was a member and past president of the Fresno Life Underwriters Association. Mrs. Olmstead was also an active member of the Madera Republican Party and the California Republican Party.

Mrs. Olmstead is preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Richard and Jerry Olson. She is survived by her husband, John Olmstead; her daughter, Diana Nole of Fresno; her son, Rodney Ede of Springfield, Oregon; and granddaughter, Jennifer Nole of Fresno.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Nancy Olmstead. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and wishing the best for her family.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT. DOUGLAS A. RUSTAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize MSG Douglas A. Rustan of Ayrshire, Iowa, as a recipient of a Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Free-

dom. The Bronze Star is the fourth highest award that the Department of Defense gives for bravery, heroism, and meritorious service.

Master Sergeant. Rustan earned the Bronze Star while serving at an overseas forward operating base. Master Sergeant. Rustin, a 1982 graduate of Ayrshire High School, is a senior intelligence analyst with 20 years of military service and is assigned to the 70th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, Fort Meade, Laurel, Maryland.

I commend MSG Douglas A. Rustan's courageousness and service to our great nation. His sacrifices go above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this nation. I am honored to represent Master Sergeant. Rustan in the United States Congress and I know that all of the members of this body join me in thanking him for his service to this great nation and wishing him the best in his future service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. ROBERT ERASTUS HANKS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Robert Hanks, known to his many friends as Coach Hanks or Colonel Hanks, was a Jones Mill native and became a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He was in command of the landing craft aboard the USS *Adair* and took part in the invasions Okinawa, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. He earned Bronze Stars for his service.

Following the war, Mr. Hanks returned to Alabama and began a 32 year teaching, coaching, and administration career at Mobile's University Military School (UMS). He earned Master's Degrees in Physical Education and School Administration from the University of Alabama, and while at UMS, he served as a history teacher, football and basketball coach, assistant superintendent, and superintendent.

As headmaster, Mr. Hanks supervised the transition from UMS to UMS Preparatory School. He was also a devoted member of Dauphin Way Baptist Church for 60 years where he served as Sunday School director and chairman of the deacons. His influence of integrity, honor, and self discipline shaped the lives of hundreds of individuals.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Mr. Robert Hanks will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 66 years, Katherlin Hanks; his sister, Robbie McEachern; his daughter, Kathy Gault; his son, Dr. Robert Hanks; his grandchildren, Jennifer Dodge, Amy Coggin, Brian Hanks, and Dr. Meredith Gault; his great-grandchildren, Logan, Kate and Abby Dodge, and John Mark, Audrey and Julianne Coggin—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN TRIBUTE TO DABNEY MONTGOMERY, AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dabney Montgomery, a member of the ground crew of the Tuskegee Airmen, who later served as a bodyguard for Martin Luther King during the historic 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Montgomery is being honored by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 237, at an event in my district on Friday, June 5, 2009. Mr. Montgomery is a retired New York City Housing Authority housing assistant.

Mr. Montgomery was born in Selma, Alabama in 1923. He was inducted into the armed forces in 1943 and underwent basic training in Biloxi, Mississippi, followed by a course in the mechanics of army supplies at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was one of three men in his course who were selected for the Army Air Corps in Oscoda, Michigan. By the time he arrived in Michigan, the unit was already packing to ship out. He was assigned to the 1051st Company of the 96th Air Service group, in charge of making sure that the units were supplied with food and clothing.

Tuskegee Institute was awarded the U.S. Army Air Corps contract to help train America's first Black military aviators because it had already invested in the development of an airfield, had a proven civilian pilot training program and its graduates performed highest on flight aptitude exams. The project was considered an experiment because it was designed to refute a racist 1920s theory that suggested that blacks could not tolerate the sharp curves and dives that were needed to fly a fighter plane. Eleanor Roosevelt was much impressed by the pilots she met at the Tuskegee Institute in 1941, and persuaded her husband to use these talented men in combat missions. With nearly 1,000 pilots and as many as 19,000 support personnel ranging from mechanics to nurses, the Tuskegee Airmen were credited with shooting down more than 100 enemy aircraft. Their success paved the way for today's integrated armed forces.

Some members of the Tuskegee Airmen went home and lived quiet lives. Mr. Montgomery went on to become actively involved in the civil rights movement. Mr. Montgomery first met Martin Luther King, Jr. as a student in Boston where Mr. Montgomery studied. They shared the same godmother.

In 1965, Mr. Montgomery was living in New York City, working as a social service investigator for the Welfare Department. One night he saw a news broadcast of blacks being beaten and gassed in Alabama for wanting to vote. Outraged that this could happen in America, he decided to return to Selma to take part in the protests. He took a leave of absence from his job, and arrived in Selma on the bus. He didn't tell his parents or his friends that he was in town, but went directly to the Brown Chapel AME Church, the march headquarters.

Mr. Montgomery had experienced Alabama's discriminatory registration practices himself, and remembers the anger and frustration he felt at being denied the right to vote.

In 1946 when he returned to Selma after the war, he went to the courthouse to register. He was given three forms that had to be signed by three white men testifying that he was "a good boy." He persuaded three men who knew his father to sign the forms, but that was not sufficient. He also had to show that he owned \$3,000 worth of land—not cash, which he had, but real property. So he gave up. As he walked down the courthouse steps, he met a white veteran going to register to vote. The white man just signed up—no forms, no attestations, no real property. Having experienced the discrimination himself, Mr. Montgomery wanted to change the system. He was moved by having the opportunity to join with the other protesters, where they prayed on the steps of the very courthouse where his registration had been rejected. A sheriff with a large gun came by and advised them to go pray in church. Mr. Montgomery says he told him, "We feel sorry for you. All you have on your side is your gun. We have truth on our side, we have God on our side, and the truth and God will last forever; your gun will disintegrate."

Mr. Montgomery volunteered to be a bodyguard for Mr. King during the march from Selma to Montgomery. The first time the marchers tried to cross the bridge, they were turned back. A federal court gave permission and more than 3,000 people marched over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. White people drove by and called them names. Undeterred, they made the 54 mile march that helped bring about the Voting Rights Act saying that all Americans should have the right to vote. In recent years, Mr. Montgomery's service is earning him honors. In 2007, he and the other surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. On the morning of his inauguration, President Barack Obama had breakfast with the Tuskegee Airman, and Mr. Montgomery was there. He also took part in the reading of the U.S. Constitution at the Newseum. Fittingly, he was given Amendment 24, sections 1 and 2, barring a poll tax. Local 237 President Greg Floyd will present him with a Trailblazer Award at the Retiree Division's Founders Day celebration tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Dabney Montgomery, an outstanding veteran, hero, civil rights activist and civil servant.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
SAMUEL L. GRAVELY, JR. ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication of the Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr. Elementary School in Haymarket, Virginia. The school is named in honor of Vice Admiral Gravelly, a Virginia native, who forged the way for a more diverse United States Navy. I cannot think of a more appropriate person to inspire our children to break barriers and achieve their highest potential.

On December 14, 1944, Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr. became the first African American to be

commissioned as a United States Naval Officer through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Course. He went on to become the Navy's first African American vice admiral.

During his distinguished 38-year career in the Navy, Vice Admiral Gravelly became the first African American to command a warship, the USS Theodore E. Chandler; the first African American to command a major warship, the USS Jouett; the first African American to achieve flag rank and eventually vice admiral; and the first African American to command a numbered fleet.

However, his service was not just one of firsts. Admiral Gravelly was highly decorated with the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal. He moved to Haymarket, Virginia upon his retirement in 1980, and passed away on October 22, 2004.

Just two weeks ago, the U.S. Navy commissioned a new Arleigh Burke-class destroyer in honor of Vice Admiral Gravelly during a ceremony at the shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. His widow, Alma Gravelly broke a bottle of champagne across the bow to christen the vessel.

Vice Admiral Gravelly's life accomplishments and service to his country represent the values that we would like to instill into our future generations. The Prince William County Public Schools' vision statement identifies a commitment to a diverse, multicultural education that produces students who enjoy a life-long pursuit of learning. Vice Admiral Gravelly lived up to these ideals by setting a precedent of diversity in our nation's military and continuing his education throughout his life. Whether it was at Virginia Union University, Columbia University or the Naval War College; his thirst for knowledge never ceased. Vice Admiral Gravelly's life embodied the vision that the Prince William County School System has for its students.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me honoring this American hero and endorsing the example he set for our nation's younger generation. I applaud Prince William County Public Schools for their decision to dedicate this school to Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr.

ADDRESS TO ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2009
AS READ BY TRAY SMITH,
CLASS SALUTATORIAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last month I had the privilege of giving the commencement address to Escambia County High School's Class of 2009. My friend, Tray Smith of Atmore, the class salutatorian, also had the opportunity to address his fellow classmates. In just 18 years, Tray has already compiled an impressive list of accomplishments. In 2008, he served as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., and earlier this year, he was named Atmore's 2008 "Citizen of the Year."

I rise today to ask that his address be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for I believe it to be one of the finest and most in-

spiring addresses given by a high school student that I have ever heard:

LEAVING OUR CHILDREN A BETTER COUNTRY
THAN WE INHERIT
(By Tray Smith)

Thirty-five years ago, my father graduated from ECHS. Then, the country was shaken by the scandal of Watergate and the Vietnam War. Every year since, a different group of faces has arrived here during its own unique period in our history. Over time, America and the world have greatly changed. So now, we, the Class of 2009, come to graduate under different circumstances than those that faced our parents. Yet, the challenges that face us are just as great as those that faced them. And just as our moms and dads responded to the problems facing our nation by spreading freedom to every continent and the Internet to almost every home, we will meet our own challenges. For we know as our parents knew, that our greatest responsibility as Americans is to leave our children a better country than the one we are about to inherit.

Graduation means we are ready to meet this task—not because we know everything we will ever need to learn, but because we know how to learn anything we will ever need to find out.

I have the honor of commemorating this moment as the salutatorian of a class that has many talented students. And it is a special honor to stand before Joy Marshall, our valedictorian and my good friend. Joy, I am so proud for you, I will miss you, and I know this school will miss you, as well.

Congressman Bonner, Mr. Means, parents, teachers, friends, guests, and members of the community; thank you all for being here to join with us in this great moment in our lives. And on behalf of the entire Class of 2009, I extend a sincere thanks to you all, especially our parents and grandparents, for the contributions you have made to make this moment possible.

I want to specifically thank Congressman Bonner for making this event a priority. Congressman, the fact you are here signifies your strong commitment to our young people, and our future. While in Congress, you have done many great things for this district. On a personal basis, though, I am most appreciative for the life changing doors you have opened for me, a young kid from Atmore. I can't imagine my high school years without the experiences I had working in Washington as your page. And the reason my class wanted you to come speak tonight is because, as we look forward to the future, there is no better person for us to emulate. Again, thank you.

Even though we graduate tonight, we will still depend on many of you in this room. I am sure I will not be the only member of the Class of 2009 to call Mom every time I have to do laundry in college. I still have no clue how to work the machines. Okay, I might be alone on that one. But I want our parents and mentors to know we will always be open to your advice and appreciate your insight.

Mom and Dad, Nee Nee and Paw Paw, Aunts and Uncles, Mrs. Bonnie and Mrs. West, other family members and friends, I love you all and I am so thankful for the role you have played in my life. And I know for all of my 132 fellow graduates, there are an equal number of people who share in the credit for this day, and who will share in the credit for the successes that come in the future.

When Mom asked me to describe my first day at ECHS years ago, I said it was like walking through the mall. But now, after having spent several years with classmates in school, at events, and serving our extra-curricular responsibilities, the faces that